

# DIDSBURY REVIEW

TUESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2013

www.didsburyreview.ca

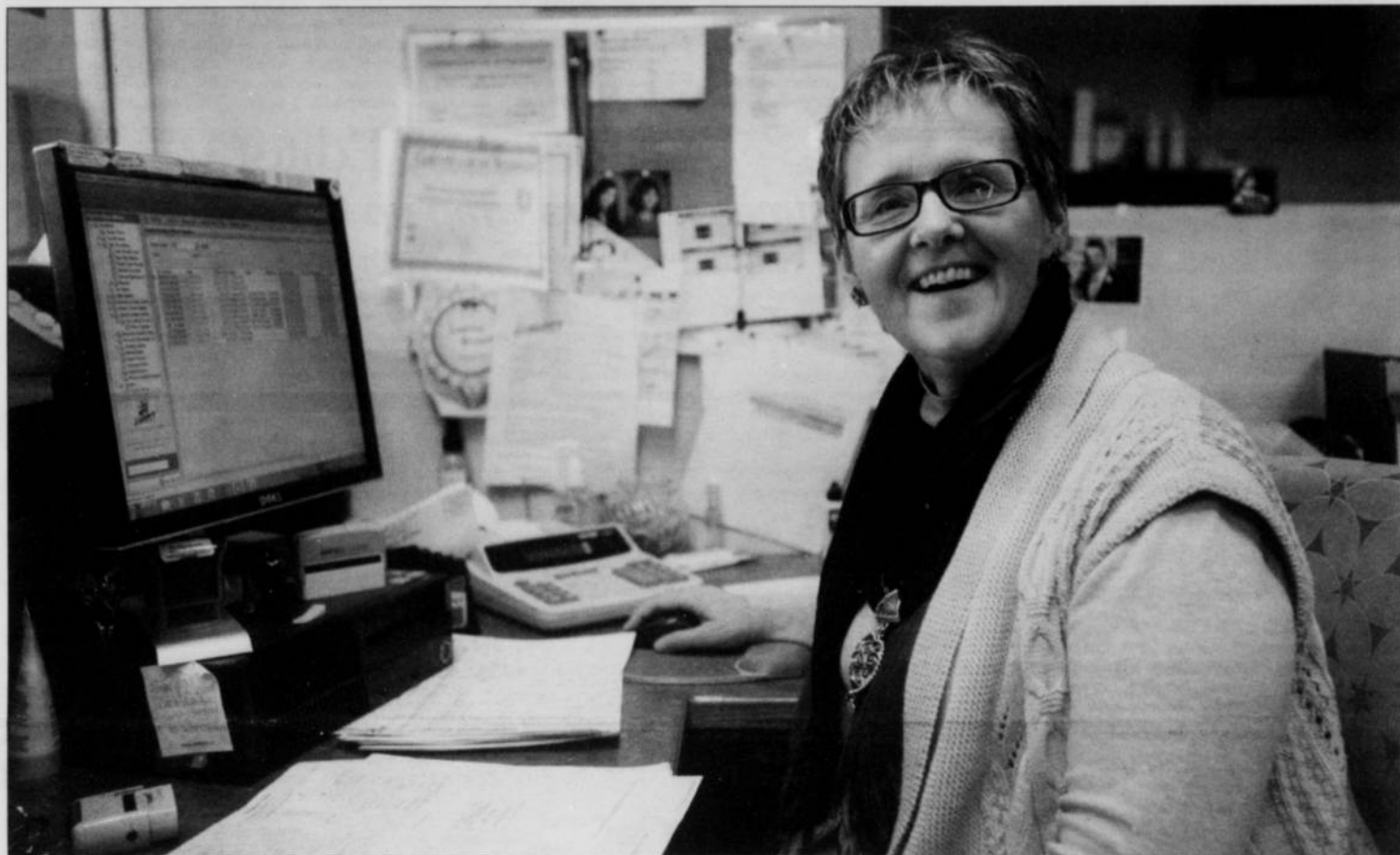
Volume 26 Issue 02



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Town of Didsbury Administrative Assistant Luella Braun last month.

Noel West/Didsbury Review

## Town brings in new financial software

BY KEVIN VINK  
Review Staff

Town administration has recently switched software programs for accounts and billing for the town's utilities and payroll, among other things.

The new MuniWare software has cost the town a total of \$100,000 which includes the cost of data conversion, according to Nita Bartholow, chief financial officer for the town.

Though it looks expensive at first glance, compared to the old Bellamy program, Bartholow said it will be cheaper in the long run.

"I'm going to save a lot of money in the future, because just in the maintenance fees,

I'm going to save half my costs," said Bartholow.

The yearly cost for Bellamy, including the cost of leasing a server required for the software, was just under \$83,000. The licence fees alone were just under \$50,000, she said, whereas MuniWare will only cost the town \$18,800 per year, after the initial purchase of the software.

Another upside to switching programs, she noted, is that MuniWare is much more efficient and user-friendly.

"It's very easy to run. I found with Bellamy that I needed to know DOS (Disk Operating System)," she said.

MuniWare, which has already been implemented in

most aspects of the workflow at the town office, makes reports faster to generate, and makes it easier to input information, she said.

Compared to the Bellamy software, Bartholow said that MuniWare takes half as much time to do the same tasks.

"It's not cumbersome. I mean, for example, if I go to the general ledger and I click on invoice, it'll bring that invoice up and show me (everything)... just by clicking on that, I get all the information I need, where it was posted to in the ledger, GST, et cetera. It's just so much easier.

"So it's just user-friendly, way more user-friendly. I could sit you down and have

you putting in receipts (immediately), whereas in Bellamy, I probably would have to take a couple days."

Maxine Moreau, associate manager of financial services, said, "The old system was very difficult to create reports with. And then with the old system... you could export into (Microsoft) Excel—because everybody wants to do that—to do reports, but that was very complicated to do. For this new system, it will be quick and easy."

She said one big perk about MuniWare is that it was created to be used strictly by municipalities. Bellamy, on the other hand, was made to cater to a variety of businesses.

"And government financial is much different than the private industry," said Moreau. "So that's where they understand what a municipality needs to produce for our residents, as well as for government needs."

She also said she believes that MuniWare will prove to make training quick and easy.

"We have a lady who's sick today, and it'll be very easy for one of our other staff to sit down and do what she needs to do in that role, because it's just simple."

Mayor Brian Wittal said the new program seems to have been well received by staff so far, and thinks that as time goes on and more peo-

ple get trained on it, things will flow much easier.

"The workability of the system and what it allows you to do from a functionality perspective is nice. And we're going to continue to see improvements and usage for the benefits out of that."

The town put it off for a while, he said, because everyone has heard of companies going from one program to another, and going from bad to worse.

"So you hear horror stories like that and you're reluctant, especially when you're looking at those kinds of monies. But this looks like it's going to be a good system from what I've seen last week."



**VALUE  
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**BRAD, DIONNE & STAFF  
WISH EVERYONE A  
HAPPY 2013 & THANKS FOR  
YOUR PATRONAGE IN 2012.**

**All  
Christmas  
Stock up to  
50% off**

# Town reports 2012 building value statistics

BY KEVIN VINK  
Review Staff

Building permit values for 2012 set a record for the town, as the total construction value of new buildings came in just over \$21.3 million, according to officials.

Dani Woodman, development officer for the Town of Didsbury, said that 2012 was a good year for the town, though housing was lacking in comparison to commercial and industrial development.

"Commercial and industrial were better this year. We're hoping for more housing starts of course in

the new year and we do have some (already)," said Woodman.

"We've heard rumours about things coming in for the new year as well, so we're hoping that it's going to be a good year again."

One of the big reasons the total for 2012 is so big is because of the Bethany Care Centre (BCC), she said.

The record-setting year totalled about \$4.8 million higher than the second-best year, which was 2007—totalled just under \$16.5 million.

Total construction value, Woodman explained, is the total value of what was

being built.

According to the town's accounting for development activity for 2012, almost \$19.7 million was residential—which included the BCC—\$1.6 million was commercial/industrial, and \$21,600 was categorized as other, which counts additions and garages.

These numbers do not include Reimer Plaza and Heritage Crossing, as they were counted in 2011, Woodman noted, adding that Shantz Crossing was

not included in the total either.

These numbers support the hope of many officials that the town may be seeing the first signs of an economic upswing.

"I'm hoping things are in the upswing again," she said. "There seems to be a lot more interest again in the commercial and the industrial end of things, and of course with that comes the offshoots of residential and so on."

Though the residential sector didn't see much in

the way of development, she said because of the new businesses moving in, more residents and families will follow.

"If some of the new industry does come in, that will bring in new residents as well, so it all trickles down," she said.

"You don't just make money off the industrial. There's the big trickle-down effect of the residential, housing sales, and new residents in town, which all affects the shopping in town—businesses make

more money because there's more people to shop."

In total, 63 permits were issued in 2012. The permits, categorically, are: 17 commercial, 34 residential, two industrial, two institutional, and eight other (such as additions like decks and garages).

Permit numbers for past years: in 2011, there was a total of 60 permits; 2010 totalled 98; 2009 totalled 126; 2008 totalled 129; 2007 totalled 164; 2006 totalled 152; and 2005 totalled 107.

## Letter to the Editor Christmas Helpers wrap up the holiday spirit

familiar faces come with one purpose: to make Christmas a time to remember for residents in the Didsbury area.

To many, this is a very special activity in their Christmas memories. Thanks to all!

Friday had a special twist as the mayor, councillors and town office staff came to prepare a satisfying and tasty lunch for the group who had spent the morning packing the groceries for each of the 120 hampers.

With everyone's help, this huge undertaking was accomplished.

The day was cold but our hearts were warmed as the program's 30th year came to a happy close

A heartfelt thank you goes out to all who worked in any way to make this year another success story. So many people gave beautiful gifts and money to purchase more groceries. Such inventive ideas were used to generate donations to the program.

Thank you seems such a small word for the great work that was done in this endeavour.

Upon closing the books on this program, because of the large number of families in need, we find ourselves \$2,300 short in covering our grocery expenses. If you feel you would like to help in this shortfall, please contact ZEMC at 403-335-3629.

This is a total community effort made by and for the people of Didsbury. All people receive from this program, from the givers to those who wrap or sort or deliver, as well as the recipients. Thanks to all!

Please mark your calendar for Dec. 20 and 21, 2013 to join in the celebration.

Christmas was made brighter, touching 150-plus children and adults because you, the residents of Didsbury—through your unselfish giving—reached out with your hearts and hands to those around you.

All the best in 2013,

Linda Regner  
and Linda Sirt



photos submitted

**CHRISTMAS LIGHTS.** The Didsbury Chamber of Commerce announced the winners for the Christmas lights contest this week. 1801 14 St. won the Small Yards class (top) and 1325 24 St. took the Large Yards class (bottom). John and Lisa Bastarache won the Rural Yard class (no photo was available).

### The Peters Team

**DAN PETERS**  
403-335-6008  
403-802-2020

**CHEZ PETERS**  
403-831-7940

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#### Didsbury

1902 - 16 Street

**SOLD**

3 BEDROOMS, 2 BATHS FULLY DEVELOPED COLLEGE GREEN 40+

**\$174,900**

2022 - 20 Avenue

DOWNTOWN HERITAGE HOME LOTS OF UPGRADES AND LOTS OF CHARACTER. ZONING ALLOWS FOR BUSINESS!

**\$209,900**

---

#### Carstairs

1561 McAlpine Street

PRICE REDUCED

BRAND NEW 1410 sq ft, 3 bedrooms

**\$319,900**

1339 Osler Street

PRICE REDUCED

GREAT LOCATION! GREAT CONDITION! RENT TO OWN THIS HOME

**\$272,900**

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#### Olds

5118 - 52 St.

R-2 property with 2 rental suites plus garage. Character home, great investment!

**\$224,900**

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#### Rural

79 Acres just West of Carstairs. 1824 sq ft house, paved road, pasture, hayland, mountain view

**\$775,000**

---

#### 1545 McAlpine Street

UNDER CONSTRUCTION 1251 sq ft, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths MAIN FLOOR LAUNDRY

**\$299,900** (incl GST)

#### 1549 McAlpine Street

UNDER CONSTRUCTION 3 bedrooms, 2 baths 1214 sq ft, hardwood

**\$299,900** (incl GST)

#### 1003 Carriage Lane Drive

1500 sq ft, fully developed, 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, heated garage, lots of upgrades & extras.

**\$439,900**

#### 1540 & 1542 McAlpine Street

West Highland duplex - list comes with pre-approved 2 storey design & working drawings

**\$65,000** + gst per side

#### 305 - 10 Avenue

MAIN STREET CARSTAIRS Main floor commercial, second floor suite.

**\$198,000**

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Noel West/Didsbury Review

From left Joyce Amstutz, Rose Snow and Alison Lefebvre wrap gifts for the Christmas Helpers program at Zion Church on Wednesday Dec. 20.

## UNITED CHURCH THRIFT SHOP DONATIONS 2012

Camp Kasota East .....	\$2000	1 Didsbury High School Bursary .....	\$500
Operation Eyesight International .....	\$500	Mustard Seed Ministries (Calgary) .....	\$1000
Calgary Urban Projects Society .....	\$1000	Habitat for Humanity .....	\$500
Alzheimer's Society of Alberta .....	\$1000	Didsbury Playground Society .....	\$500
World Development & Relief Fund ..	\$2000	Ross Ford Snack Cupboard .....	\$500
Rosebud Health Foundation .....	\$2000	Chinook Arch Victim's Services .....	\$500
Senior's Support Services .....	\$2000	Didsbury Museum .....	\$500
Didsbury Lion's Handi-Bus .....	\$1000	Christmas Helpers - Didsbury .....	\$500
Didsbury Cemetery Committee .....	\$500	West Glen Breakfast Program .....	\$500
Mountainview Food Bank .....	\$2000	United Church Mission & Service .....	\$2000
Bissell Centre (Edmonton) .....	\$500	Didsbury High School Band Trip .....	\$1000
Jellinek Society Recovery House (Edmonton) .....	\$500	St. Stephen's College .....	\$500
Naramata Centre (B.C.) .....	\$500	Horizon School .....	\$500
Central Alberta Women's Emergency Shelter .....	\$1000	Wednesday Coffee Group .....	\$300
		Dogs with Wings .....	\$500
		<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>\$27,800</b>



# Firehouse news: December

The month of December was rather busy compared to previous months.

Bad things definitely come in threes, because on the first day, in the span of 15 hours, we responded to three calls including a serious car accident on the QEII, a structure fire in Olds, and a medical assist.

The first night of December, we were called to Olds to help extinguish a fire that had started in the rear of a local business. Thankfully, the damage was not too severe and we were able to save the building.

Once Didsbury was released from the scene, we had enough time to get our trucks back in service and grab a few hours of sleep before we were called to the highway, where a car had rear-ended a semi, causing extensive damage and trapping the person inside.

We were able to pop open the door and cut the steering wheel, which allowed for enough movement to get the driver out. Because of potential head injuries, the medics made the decision to take the patient to the Foothills Medical Centre.

Within the next few days our assistance was needed again as a mobile trailer in Carstairs had caught fire. As



KYLE LEESON

with most daytime fire calls, manpower can be limited so the assistance was greatly appreciated. The following day, the weather took a turn for the worse, causing the highways to ice over and become very treacherous.

The most severe ice patch was located north between Olds and Innisfail. Many cars slid off the road and into the cable barrier. Thanks to the group effort of all the departments involved, no serious injuries were reported.

In the past few years the department purchased new green LED lights for the members and have found that they do work very well. The new purchase replaced some of the old strobe-style lights which were not very bright and hard to notice through the rear-view mirror.

Thank you to everyone who noticed the firefighters responding to the hall and pulled to the side of the road.

For the month we responded to a total of 27 emergencies: eight medical assists, seven investigations and alarms, three fire-related calls, and nine motor vehicle collisions.



## CLOSING OUT SALE

\*All items 50% off\*  
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 \*Dealers welcome\*  
 \*Sale ends January 31, 2013\*  
 \*\*Some conditions apply

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- Be a good communicator
- Be a good negotiator
- Be a good leader

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1906 - 20 Street Didsbury

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Associate

**SPACIOUS MOBILE**  
Great way to get into the market or downsize. Large porch/deck.  
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Nice unit on the top floor.  
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**COLLEGE GREEN CONDO**  
Great location in the park with great fireplace and new participants.  
Clean as a wheel.  
**\$199,000**

**BUSINESS FOR SALE**  
If you have ever wanted to own a business here's your chance!  
Building also available for sale.  
**\$145,000**

**SPACIOUS CONDO**  
Try to sleep on it at night please.  
Call to see it.  
**\$228,500**

**EASY LIVING CONDO!**  
This corner unit has a nice open floor plan with lots of natural light.  
**\$179,525**

**C/S**  
**SOLID RENOVATED OLDER HOME**  
Great 3-2 bedroom home with totally redone basement on huge lot!  
**\$239,525**

Flyers are located in the green box in front of the office containing all listings in Didsbury. Come & take a look!  
Check out my website: [www.cindytippe.ca](http://www.cindytippe.ca) for lots of great information!

**myCommunity**  
Neighbours Indeed

**Who do you know...** that is celebrating any of these special events? • Birth of a child • Wedding • Special Anniversary: 25, 40, 50, 60, etc.

A special **KEEPSAKE GIFT** is available compliments of the following community-minded business and professional people:

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- Contemporary Graphics
- AG Foods
- Front Porch Realty
- Didsbury Value Drug Mart

Phone Linda Neufeld 403-335-4089

# TOWN OF DIDSBURY



## PUBLIC MEETINGS

**REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING:** Tuesday, January 22 at 7:00 pm.  
**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING:** Tuesday, February 12 at 7:00 p.m.  
**MUNICIPAL PLANNING COMMISSION:** Wednesday, January 9 at 4:30 p.m.  
 Unless otherwise noted, all meetings are held in Council Chambers at the Town Office.

## 2013 Municipal Election

The 2013 municipal election is fast approaching and in response to inquiries the Elected Officials Education Program (EOEP) online curriculum will now be open to the general public. Any person who is interested in developing essential leadership and governance skill sets and learning more about municipal government is eligible to enroll in any EOEP online course.

The EOEP has been providing municipally elected officials in Alberta with quality professional development opportunities focusing on roles, responsibilities, leadership and governance since 2008. Designed specifically for municipal policy makers, the program provides them a solid foundation to lead, allows them to be more relevant in their role as elected officials, broadens their knowledge and skills raising the quality of municipal government and effectively achieves the goals of their community. There are currently 17 courses available for online learning and the remainder of the curriculum will be available by early 2013.

For more information please contact Luana Smith at 403-335-3391 ext. 1103 or by email at [lsmith@didsbury.ca](mailto:lsmith@didsbury.ca)

Town Office: 8:30 am to 4:30 pm 403.335.3391  
 Public Works: 8:00 am to 4:30 pm 403.335.8343  
 Information Line 403.335.2030  
 After Hours Pager 403.507.3624  
 Didsbury Neighborhood Place 403.335.8719  
 Aquatic Centre and Arena 403.335.7369

## ROLLOUT CART PICK UP SCHEDULE

	January	February
Black Bin	15, 16, 29, 30	12, 13, 26, 27
Green Bin	9	5, 6

Like Us - Town of Didsbury

Follow Us - @townofdidsbury

## Business License Renewal

Business License fees for the calendar year 2013 are now due and payable. Fees are unchanged from 2012. For any inquiries, please call 403.335.3391 ext. 1114.

## Utility Bills

The new financial software program has changed your **Utility Account Number**. We are working with the banks to accommodate this change but as of January 16, 2013 you will need to change your account number when paying online. Your new account number is 9 digits long versus the old number of 8 digits. After January 16, 2013 the 8 digit number will no longer be accepted.

If you have questions or need assistance please do not hesitate to call the Town Office at 403.335.3391.

Moving progressively into the future by enhancing our community and quality of life, while respecting our history.



Noel West/Didsbury Review

**NEW YEAR'S BABY** • Parents Tanya and Graham Sayers welcomed Olds' New Year's baby early on January 1. Aaron Neil tipped the scales at eight pounds five ounces. Aaron was joined for his first photo shoot by big sister Avery, 10, brother Anthony, 7, and sister Ardi, 3. Aaron was born at 2:11 a.m. The family is formerly of Didsbury but now lives in Olds.

## Annual weeklong bonspiel runs this week

BY KEVIN VINK  
Review Staff

The 19th annual Didsbury Farm and Ranch Spiel is taking place this week with action starting yesterday and carrying on through Saturday.

The annual curling event draws in farmers and business people from across the area, said Harry Reese, an organizer and farmer.

There are 36 registered rinks, or teams of four, and each team will be playing at

least four games, depending on performance, he noted.

"Most people get a game a day," said Reese.

The games will be running from Jan. 7 to 12 from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., added Reese.

He explained that in most cases, farmers sign up three curlers for their rink. Once all teams have registered, the business people are then shuffled into teams.

"There's a lot of camaraderie going on between the farmers and the business people," Reese noted. "And

it's a real good time for the urban and rural communities to get together and just have some fun."

The deadline for registration was the 28th of December, he noted, and residents are welcome to drop in and watch throughout the week.

"We get quite a few people coming out to watch—it draws a lot of people.

There's some pretty good rinks, some very good curling happening," he said.

Some of the highlights for

players include free breakfasts and dinners and a skills competition on Thursday, in which players compete for cash prizes.

Reese, whose team won the bonspiel last year, noted that he enjoys helping organize the event because of the fellowship that players and teams have with each other, and the cash prizes don't hurt either.

"There's a few dollars kicking around for us farmers to make a living with it," he joked.

## Pet pictures event raises \$1,000 for WRHS

BY KEVIN VINK  
Review Staff

The Wild Rose Humane Society (WRHS) compiled its numbers from the Pet Pictures with Santa event, held in Didsbury and Airdrie, and Maude Laliberte said the society is happy about the results.

"We're very, very happy," said Laliberte, fundraising director for the WRHS.

"Pet Pictures with Santa is always a big hit every year."

This was the second year that the society held the event in Didsbury, she noted, though it has been going in Airdrie for a few years already.

"So there have been some fantastic people that really like it. We've shot dogs, cats and rabbits. This year we didn't see any birds, but last year it was very interesting to see everybody's pets," she said.

About 100 photos were taken altogether, with nearly \$1,000 going straight to the Give Me Shelter campaign, she added.

"We have a campaign called Give Me Shelter, so we're going to be putting that money towards building or renting a facility for a shelter in the next year or two. That's our goal," she said.

The turnout in Airdrie was a little less than that in Didsbury, and Laliberte credits the smaller turnout on a lack of

advertising.

"We didn't have lots of time to advertise and advertising does a lot, but with word of mouth and Facebook, it helped a lot, though it could have been more busy."

Though the event is over and the WRHS will not be in the public eye until next year, she said that the society is offering items for sale on its website ([www.wildrosehumane.ca](http://www.wildrosehumane.ca)).

"We have promo items like leashes and collars, so we have things like that. They're very good stocking stuffers for Christmas," she added.

The WRHS is also on Facebook and any other inquiries can be sent to ([info@wildrosehumane.ca](mailto:info@wildrosehumane.ca)).

## Around Town with the Didsbury Library

### January 9

Mountain View Christian Women's Breakfast. 9:30 to 11:30 am at Redeemer Lutheran Church Gym. \$6 per person. Free babysitting. Special feature: Dr. Julie Miller, Naturopath, will be speaking on cold and flu protection. Special music: Milbrandt Children. Special Speaker: Gladys Krueger "Stepping Stones". For reservations please call Ann 403-335-8444 or Vicky 403-335-3500.

### January 9, 16, 23, 30

Volunteer Tutoring Adult Learning Services will be available at the Didsbury Library on Wednesdays from 9 am to Noon. Mtn. View Communities Adult Learning Society is offering the following services: Volunteer Tutor Adult Learning – a volunteer is matched with a learner for one-on-one learning. English Language Tutor – a volunteer is matched with a person wanting to learn to speak English.

### January 10

Didsbury Light Horse Show will be having their annual meeting, 7:00 pm we are welcoming any new members to help put on the Didsbury Light Horse Show held in July. For directions to the meeting call Shelley at 403-507-1697

### January 10

Thank you to all the many volunteers, supporters and donors for your kindness, thoughtfulness and generosity. You make this program possible and you are appreciated. Our Friends & Fun Program will begin again on January 10th at 1:30 p.m. Christmas Blessings to all. Didsbury Seniors Support Services

### January 23 – February 20

English Conversational Café will be held at the Didsbury Library on Wednesdays from 7:00 to 8:00 pm. Meeting space and refreshments provided by the Didsbury Library. If you need help with English language learning, drop in to have beginner conversations with local volunteers and other community members. You will have conversations in English about current events, sports, weather, entertainment, food, travel, and much more. Organized by Mtn. View Communities Adult Learning Society.

Promote your events in this column. Send info to [didsburylibrary@tibs.prl.ab.ca](mailto:didsburylibrary@tibs.prl.ab.ca) or drop off copy at Didsbury Library 2033 19 Ave.

## Church Directory

The REVIEW is pleased to provide this Church Directory as a community service

### Berghal Mennonite Church

Didsbury, Alberta  
5km S of the Didsbury Overpass,  
8km E on Berghal Rd.  
Sunday Worship Service - 11:00 a.m.  
For more information  
phone 403-335-4451

### Knox United Didsbury

1406 - 19th Avenue 403-335-8373  
Join us for worship 10 a.m. Sundays,  
With Sunday School for children  
For more information go to  
[www.knox-united.com](http://www.knox-united.com)  
People make the place!  
Rev. Liz Bowyer  
Intentional Interim Minister

### Chinook Winds Christian Centre

Welcome Home  
[chinookwinds.ca](http://chinookwinds.ca)  
10am Sundays  
Pastors Richard & Beth Kope  
Pastors Corey & Erin Kope  
1710 - 14 Street Didsbury  
403-335-3551 Email [cwcc@airnet.com](mailto:cwcc@airnet.com)

### St. Anthony's Catholic

2030 - 24 Ave. Didsbury  
For more information please contact  
Catholic Women's League:  
Maxine Moreau 403-335-4948  
Knights of Columbus:  
Gary McNeil 403-335-8611  
For more information  
Olds St. Steven's Office  
403-556-3084

### Redeemer Lutheran Lutheran Church Canada

1500 - 23 ST. • Rev. Robert Mohs  
Church: 403-335-3161 / Res: 403-335-3656  
Sunday School - 9:30 a.m. • Worship - 10:30 a.m.  
Adult Bible Study Sunday - 9:30 a.m.  
Holy Communion 1 & 3 Sunday 10:30 a.m.  
Jr. & Sr. Youth, Women's & Seniors' Ministry Group  
Small Group Bible Study meetings  
throughout the week

### Mountain View Evangelical Missionary Church

14 km East of Didsbury Pastor Art Numan  
Office: 403-335-4422  
Morning Worship 11 a.m. • Sunday School 10 a.m.  
For information concerning the weekly activities  
please call the Church Office.

### Anglican Church of Canada St. Cyprian's

2037 - 24th Ave. Didsbury - 403-335-4664  
Rector - David Asher  
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.  
Holy Communion - 2nd & 4th Sunday each month

### West Zion Mennonite Church

[westzion.com](http://westzion.com) has a map for directions  
Senior Pastor Mal Braun  
Youth Pastor Josh Tiel  
Sunday Services 10:00 am  
ALL WELCOME

### Zion Evangelical Missionary Church

#802 Secondary Highway 582  
Phone: 403-335-3629 Web: [www.zemc.org](http://www.zemc.org)  
Mike Morgan, Senior Pastor  
Colin Creighton, Associate Pastor  
Alison Lefebvre, Youth Pastor  
Christine Little, Children's Pastor  
Sunday School at 9:30 am & Service to follow at  
10:45 am  
Programming for children up to Grade 6

## SEE YOU IN CHURCH THIS SUNDAY

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Outside Round Roast \$2.98 lb  
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Western Family Pop 2\$6  
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California Grown,  
10 lb. Consumer Pack

Cake Donuts \$1.98  
Plain or Chocolate  
6 Pack

Montreal Style Corned Beef \$1.88 /100 g

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**ATTENTION**

**Didsbury Agricultural Society Members**  
The **Annual General Meeting**  
will be held **Wednesday, January 9, 2013**  
at 7:30pm in the Excalibur Building.  
For more information please contact the  
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**Traffic signs  
stolen**

On the morning of Jan. 3, police received reports of three traffic signs being cut clean off with a chainsaw in the area surrounding Didsbury in the past two weeks, according to Sgt. Jeff Jacobson.

Though the signs have already been replaced by the county, he noted that RCMP are still seeking a culprit, who, if caught, would potentially be charged with mischief endangering life.

The reason being is that the speed, road end, and stop signs are in place to direct drivers, he said.

"Definitely with the stop sign and the road end sign, it's extremely dangerous," said Jacobson.

"Certainly if someone were to go through that intersection after somebody had done that, the person who actually chopped those down would be looking at very

**Police Briefs**

BY KEVIN VINK  
Review Staff

serious criminal charges which would involve negligence causing death, as well as mischief charges."

He is asking any witnesses to contact the Didsbury RCMP if they saw something suspicious.

Cpl. Clint Gulash added that, especially during the holiday season, there are many drivers coming through who don't know the area, and may not know that the road ends, which could lead to injury or even death.

**Mailbox  
recovered**

Just off of Highway 580 near Rge. Rd. 23, Rural Crime Watch volunteers came across a Canada Post mailbox that is presumed to have been stolen by the mail thieves that were caught recently by police, said Cpl. Clint Gulash.

"The mailbox where we knew some of the mail had gone missing from had not turned up," said Jacobson.

"Based on a Rural Crime Watch fan-out, one of the Rural Crime Watch members actually observed it in a ditch in the area."

Gulash said it was tucked between a copse of trees and some tall grass.

"Unfortunately, due to how long it had been outside, we found no forensic evidence that we were able to pull off of it," he noted, "but the box was returned to Canada Post so that they can replace it or recycle it."

Jacobson said that they appreciated the efforts of the Rural Crime Watch team, because otherwise the box could have been sitting there for much longer.

"They do make a difference and we appreciate the efforts that they do put in," said Jacobson, "and we encourage residents that live in the rural areas to sign up for Rural Crime Watch for that reason."

**Fuel theft**

East of Didsbury and about a mile south of Highway 582, sometime on Christmas Day, somebody went onto a rural property and stole 450 gallons of gasoline, said Jacobson.

"It also appears they filled up a jerry can with diesel and then cut the line, which led to the rest of the 500 gallons of fuel to leak onto the ground," he added.

"Based on our scene exam, it would appear that there was an individual and a dog, as well as a truck of some sort that would have been involved at that scene."

He said that if any rural residents had strangers come to their door around that time, the police would like to hear from them.

"Given the amount of fuel that was stolen, I'm under the impression that they would have had to have had something significant to load it into, as opposed to a regular fuel tank," he noted.

**Ditch cruising**

On Dec. 31, between midnight and 8 a.m., between Range Roads 34 and 35, along Twp. Rd. 303, a vehicle entered the ditch, taking out four fence posts before returning to the road, said Gulash.

The colour of the vehicle is unknown. However, due

to debris that was left behind, police believe that it may have been a Chevrolet Silverado, made between 2011 and 2013.

They are asking anybody who may see a Silverado with substantial front-end, passenger-side damage to contact the Didsbury RCMP with any information.

"Whoever it was came within inches of hitting a bunch of spruce trees there too, and they wouldn't have been going anywhere," said Gulash.

Jacobson said that in many cases, people don't realize that if they damage private property, that they are required to report it to the owner. If they cannot locate the owner, they should report it to police.

Gulash said, "Luckily, this wasn't like a fence that was holding cattle or anything. It was just an aesthetic fence kind of thing for his property."

"But by not reporting it, you could have cattle get out on the road and create more hazards for other motorists."

**Snowmobile  
safety**

RCMP want to remind snowmobilers to be safe this winter, to make sure to use proper headgear and be safe while enjoying the sledding weather.

"Because it seems that every year we get fatalities from people falling off sleds and hitting their head or hitting a tree or whatever," said Gulash.

He wanted to remind snowmobilers to drive responsibly, wear the proper gear, and make sure they let people know where they're going before they embark.

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## OVERGUARD



Vivian Anne Overguard, 93 passed away peacefully Wednesday, December 19, 2012 after three days at the Sundre General Hospital. She is predeceased by parents, John & Winnifred Markin and sisters Thelma Sheets and Flossy Markin, as well as grandson Scott Jackson. Vivian is survived by her children Judy (Art) Mikal, Joanne (Joe) Jackson, Dennis (Joanne) Overguard, Martin (Yvonne) Overguard, Steve (Debbie) Overguard as well as 16 grandchildren, 18 great grandchildren and 1 great-great-grand child. As well as Nita, the wonderful care giver who made it possible for Vivian to remain in her own home on the farm for the last year of her life. Vivian was born in Benito Manitoba. Her family moved to James River where they farmed when she was 8 years old. Vivian attended Rockwood School until completing grade 8 either walking or riding her horse 3 miles to school each day through the years. On April 20, 1940, Vivian married George Overguard, the love of her life and the boy next door. They spent 71 years together farming and raising their family of 2 daughters and 3 sons. Vivian loved the community of James River and was a faithful member of the James River Willing Workers for years. She often helped plan and host various events at the hall from dances, to card parties and many other functions. George and Vivian thought a lot of their good friends Bill & Helen Mallinson & family sharing many memories with them through the years. Vivian loved having grandchildren and really enjoyed spending time with each of them. She enjoyed watching her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren play hockey, ball, or compete in other athletic events as well as participate in many years of 4H. Vivian also loved being outdoors whether it was picking berries, working in her garden or doing regular farm chores she was always smiling. She was a terrific cook who always had fresh baking and goodies ready for the kids when they got home from school. Anyone who knew Vivian knew she loved to laugh and have fun. Her smile and laugh was contagious. We are so proud of Mom & Grandma for leading such an amazing life. Her sense of humour, unconditional love and support will always be remembered. Thank you Mom & Grandma for always being there for us. We love you. Graveside Service was held at the Eagle Valley Cemetery on December 27 at 11 am with Memorial Services at James River Hall at 1 pm. Active pallbearers were Vivian's loving grand daughters. Refreshments prepared by the James River Willing Workers, Heartland Funeral Services were in charge of service.

Nellie Davies  
(nee Beatson)

passed away peacefully on December 24, 2012. She was born February 28, 1912 in Sheffield, England, the youngest child of Tom and Emily Beatson. She became a nurse and served as a lieutenant in the British Army in North Africa in World War II. She was first stationed at El Qantara, Egypt near the Suez Canal. She was an accomplished swimmer and swam across the canal many times. In 1945 she was moved to Tobruk, Libya to treat German and Italian P.O.W.s. She immigrated to Canada in 1948. She nursed in Kenora, Ontario and was a public health nurse in Breton and Youngstown in Alberta. She moved to Didsbury Hospital in 1950. Nellie did the matron's holidays, "specialled" many patients and delivered many babies. In the hospital she met Caradog Davies, married and moved to the Garfield District west of Carstairs, Alberta. When the Auxiliary Hospital was built she was elected to the board and became Chairman. She was a charter member of the Jackson Women's Institute (1953) and very active for many years. She won many awards for her cross-stitch and knitting. She moved to Chinook Winds Lodge in Carstairs in 1991 and spent ten enjoyable years there. Nellie was predeceased by her husband Caradog, brother-in-law Jack, sisters Emily and Maggie, and brother Ernest. She is survived by her loving and devoted daughter Mary Jane Davies (Zen Kondra) and their children Alex (Janette) Kondra, Andrew Kondra and nephews Bill (Margaret), Gordon (Chris) Murray and niece Alison (Geoff) Holman and their families in the U.K. and abroad. Nellie will be missed by family, and so many friends and neighbours. At Nellie's request no funeral or memorial service will be held. No flowers please. Memorial tributes may be made by donating to the charity of your choice. Arrangements in care of Sunset Funeral Service, Linden, 403-546-3903.

## Mair (Myra) Underhay (nee Hughes)



It is with much sadness that we announce the peaceful passing of Myra Underhay on January 3, 2013 at the age of 91 years. Myra and her twin sister, Gwen were born in Aberystwyth, Wales, UK on October 13, 1921. The Hughes family immigrated to Canada when Myra was three years old. She grew up on a farm east of Didsbury with her two sisters and four brothers. On November 30, 1946 she married George "Jack" Underhay and farmed in the Midway/Lone Pine area for 33 years. While on the farm, she cared for a large yard which included a vegetable garden and several flower beds. Myra was a very active member for over 60 years in the Lone Pine Women's Institute and was an Alberta Women's Institute Girl's Club Supervisor for four years. Myra was a member of the Didsbury Legion Ladies Auxiliary. She also taught Sunday School at the Anglican Church services held at Midway School. Upon retirement to Didsbury in 1979, Myra volunteered extensively with the Hospital Auxiliary and the United Church Women & Thrift Store. Myra enjoyed Potluck gatherings at the 5-0 Club and lawn bowling at the Didsbury Lawn Bowling Greens. In 2007, Myra moved to the Aspen Ridge Lodge & Assisted Living. Myra was predeceased by her husband Jack in 1994. She will be forever remembered and cherished by her daughter Joyce (Ed) Wicks of Sundre, grandson Darryl (Vicki) Wicks and great-grandchildren Shaelah, Jaclyn & Mitchell of Claresholm, AB., grandson David (Tracy) Wicks and great-granddaughters Katie & Alyssa of Calgary and granddaughter Joy (Gerald) and great-granddaughters Jenna & Julia of Sherwood Park, AB. Myra's memory will be cherished by her sister Olwen (Frank) Bray of Edson, sister-in-law Doris Hughes of Carstairs as well as numerous nieces and nephews who will miss "Aunt Myra". She was predeceased by her husband Jack in 1994, brothers David, William, Alan and Trevor and most recently her twin sister Gwen in May 2012. Funeral services will be held at Knox United Church, Didsbury on Wednesday, January 9, 2013 at 2:00pm. Memorial tributes may be made directly to the Alzheimer's Society or the Canadian Diabetes Association. Heartland Funeral Services Ltd. Olds entrusted with arrangements. 403-507-8610.



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## Haderer



It is with great sadness we announce the passing of Loraine Haderer on Saturday, December 15, 2012 at the age of 64 years. Loraine is lovingly remembered by her husband of 45 years, Keith Haderer, by two daughters, Karen (Murray) Scott and Deanna Haderer (Eric Wright), granddaughters Brittany and Natasha Scott, mother Ella Streicher and brother Larry Streicher, as well as numerous relatives. Loraine lived her entire life in the Poplar Creek District east of Olds. She attended Poplar Creek School, Reed Ranch School and graduated from Olds High School. Loraine married Keith on June 24, 1967. Two daughters soon arrived to fill their home. Loraine was a true farm wife, driving tractor, helping Keith with field work, raising chickens for many years and then milking cows until she was no longer able. Loraine loved flowers and there were always many planters filled with flowers throughout the yard. She helped Keith with restoration work on his antique tractors and enjoyed going to tractor pulls. Two of her favourite tractors were "Emmy" and "Little V". Loraine loved to go for drives "out west" and to Banff with her family and they shared many picnics on their outings. Loraine's greatest loves in life were her family, her grandchildren and her Jersey cows. A private memorial service was held in Torrington, in the church where Loraine was confirmed and married. If friends so desire, memorial tributes to Loraine can be made to Didsbury Hospital - Palliative Care Unit, 1210 - 20 Ave, Didsbury, AB T0M 0W0 or the Children's Wish Foundation, Suite 271, 339 - 50th Ave. SE, Calgary, AB T2G 2B3.

## Thank You

The families of Ron & Verna Becker would like to thank the lung transplant team in Edmonton & Calgary, paramedics, Didsbury Fire Dept, Dr. Andrew Jackson, Dr. Diane Smith, and the nurses & staff at the Didsbury Hospital. We would also like a special thank you to Pastor Mike, Willard & Eunice Swalm, all the congregation for their love and support shown to us during this difficult time. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank our community for their generosity, love, prayers and support. Also we would like to thank Heartland Funeral Services.

Verna Becker & family

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